



DITC/TNCD/MISC/2022/1
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NOTIFICATION

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development Ninth session Geneva, 4–6 July 2022

The ninth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will be held with physical and remote participation from 4 to 6 July 2022. The substantive topic of the session is the evolving landscape of digital trade in services.

Background and purpose of the meeting

Member States, at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, stated that UNCTAD should “support and promote activities and initiatives in developing countries through the improvement in trade in services, including the utilization of special economic zones” (TD/541/Add.2). The substantive topic for the ninth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development was approved by the Trade and Development Board through a silence procedure that ended on 28 February 2022.

The sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will address the role of trade in services in economic diversification, aimed at identifying new approaches to services policymaking and establishing a global services community that is development oriented. The sessions will build on findings from the previous eight sessions, as well as lessons learned during the five sessions of the Global Services Forum held in 2012–2021 and draw on insights from completed and ongoing technical assistance activities.

This session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development will focus on the impact of digitalization on trade in services. It will provide an opportunity for experts to exchange views on how digitalization could be a game changer in the participation of developing countries in trade in services and to share experiences in linking digital services trade to economic diversification.

An informal working group will be formed to meet on the margins of sessions of the multi-year expert meeting; the objective is for services experts and representatives of national statistical bureaus, along with other relevant stakeholders, to exchange views and identify key challenges with regard to the collection and use of data.

Participation

Member States are invited to nominate experts from the public and/or private sectors. Nominated experts are encouraged to participate in all sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development to ensure continuity. Each State is encouraged to nominate up to five experts to participate remotely.

This session is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, as well as academia, research institutions and the private sector, may participate as observers.

Online registration is mandatory for all those wishing to attend the meeting and is required in order to be included in the list of participants. Please register for this session at <https://indico.un.org/event/1000971/>. Registration requires uploading an official letter of nomination to represent an organization at this meeting. For government representatives, a note verbale or an email from the permanent mission in Geneva will suffice.

Further inquiries regarding registration should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Outreach and Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org and tncdb@unctad.org.

Background documents and written contributions

The annotated provisional agenda (TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/25) and the background note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat, entitled “The evolving landscape of digital trade in services” (TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/26), will be made available on the UNCTAD website.

Experts are encouraged to prepare and submit brief replies to the attached survey by 31 May 2022 to the email address indicated below. Replies will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Logistics

The session will be held with physical participation, in room XVII of the Palais des Nations, and remote participation, through a simultaneous interpretation platform in the six official languages of the United Nations. A link to the formal virtual meeting will be sent to registered participants, at the email address used for registration, one day in advance of the start of the session.

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badges from the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9 a.m. to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations; visitors should therefore be dropped off at the indicated entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service gives special clearance.

Contact details

Substantive enquiries should be addressed to the Division on International Trade and Commodities, tel: 41 22 917 5691; email: tncdb@unctad.org.



Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General of UNCTAD
12 April 2022